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BULGARIA PLANS FOREST BELTS,  
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Improvements to be made in the Dobrudzha region include the planting of shelter belts and the construction of irrigation systems, dams, pumping stations, water supply systems, and power lines.

Nine shelter belts will be planted in Dobrudzha. Their total length will be 195 kilometers. One of the main shelter belts will pass near Balchik. It will be 70 kilometers long and 70 meters wide, and will be planted between two dry rivers. It will start from the Rumanian border and will end above the Batova River valley. The belt will consist of three sections: two end sections consisting of forest growth and having width of 18 meters each; a central section consisting of fruit trees and having a width of 34 meters.

A 200-kilometer belt will be planted on the two banks of the Kanag'ol River, which is nearly dry. It will start at the village of Venets, Kolarovgrad Okolija, and end at the Bulgarian-Rumanian border.

A 220-kilometer belt will cover the two banks of the Sukha River. It will start at Novo Botevo and end at the Rumanian border.

Two other belts, one 30 and the other 25 kilometers long, will be planted in the eastern part of Dobrudzha, east of General Toshevo and north of Balchik.

Along the Silistra - Kolarovgrad highway a new kind of belt will be planted, one of the so-called "atase highway shelter belts," the main purpose of which is to protect the roads from snow drifts during winter. The belts will be planted only at places which are usually covered by snow drifts and will be situated on both sides of the highway, 20 to 30 meters from its center. Each belt will be 10 meters wide.

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A series of other forest belts will also be planted.

The forest shelter belts will be planted with forest, fruit, and vineyard growths. The last two types will cover 40 percent of the total planted area.

Within a period of only 5 years, 236,000 decare of young forests will spring up on the lands of farms workers' cooperatives and state farms. This represents an area half the size of the Sofia plain. A series of new shelter belts have sprung up during the past 3 months in Dobrudzha. In General Toshevo Okoliya alone, 124.5 kilometers of shelter belts have already been planted on farm workers' cooperatives and state farms, covering 2,238 decare of land. As much as 30,000 kilograms of seeds have been used for planting. In Balchik Okoliya, 68.6 kilometers of belts on 1,235 decare of land have already been planted, using 11,350 kilograms of acorns. In Tutrakan Okoliya and in Silistra Okoliya, 64.4 kilometers of belts on 1,120.5 decare of land have been planted with 11,000 kilograms of seeds, 40,000 saplings, etc.

At present, three of the large shelter belts are being surveyed; the belt along the Danube, the belt which begins at the village of Khrabrovo and ends at the Bulgarian - Rumanian border, and the belt which runs along both banks of the Sukha River. Plans for the first two belts will be completed by 1 July 1951 and for the third belt 1 September 1951.

Workers on the belts are divided into three groups: the first group surveys and marks the terrain where the belt will pass; the second group, composed of engineers and technicians, performs the measuring; and the third, a group of scientific workers, performs soil studies, climatic studies, geomorphological studies, and dendrological studies.

Manual planting requires a large number of laborers. One decare of forest can be planted in a day by four laborers, but one tree-planting machine with seven units and drawn by a tractor, can plant up to 170 decare per day.

About 700 tons of acorns and 35 tons of other seeds will be gathered for this year's planting of shelter belts. At present, in the forest nurseries in Dobrudzha, 40 million saplings are being prepared for the belts; in 1952, 92 million will be prepared; and between 1953 and 1955, a total of 355 million. A considerable part of them will be fruit saplings. More than 17 million new fruit trees and about 3 million vines will be planted in the belts by the end of 1955.

There will also be five irrigation systems in Dobrudzha; one of them, the "Stalin" Irrigation System in the lowland of Brushlen, is already in operation. Its canals irrigate 175,000 decare of land. A second irrigation system, which will irrigate 20,000 decare, will be erected in the lowlands of Popina and Garvan. In the lowlands of Aydemir another 30,000 decare of land will be irrigated.

The Aydemir system will be put into operation not later than 1 May 1952 and the Popina system will open soon after.

Two other irrigation systems will be put into operation in the eastern part of Dobrudzha in 1953. A number of deep wells will be dug in the rayon of the villages of Shabla and Blatnitsa. These wells draw 200 liters of water per second. The pumping stations in this rayon will pump 10-12 cubic meters of water per second for irrigation purposes.

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A system for irrigating 5,000 decares of land will be set up at the lower end of the Patova River.

A series of small dams will be erected for the purpose of gathering rain and melted snow. Ten such dams are now projected.

Three small rivers, the Krapinets, the Kulak, and the Kazaluk, which spring from the forests of Deliorman, enter Dobrudzha and quickly dry out.

Last year, the pumping station for the Silistra water supply was put into operation, and at the beginning of this year, the station at Dulovo began to operate. On 1 May 1951, the Tolbukhin-Patova water-supply canal was completed. This water-supply line, 18 kilometers long, delivers 60 liters of water per second to the inhabitants of Tolbukhin. The water shortage has ended and every citizen of Tolbukhin now has 150 liters of drinking water per day.

In 1952, the "Duran-Kulak" and "Sveta Marina" water-supply systems will be completed and the villages of Aleksievo, Vedinina, and Donchevo will be supplied with water. In 1952, drinking water requirements in Balchik and the surrounding villages will also have been satisfied. A number of other pumping installations will be completed and the deep subterranean waters near the sea coast and in the interior will be utilized.

By the end of 1953, the water supply lines of the "Krasen" and "Kayvardzha" systems will be completed. This will satisfy the needs for drinking water in the interior of Dobrudzha.

In 1954, the water supply system of Balchik Okoliya and General Toshevo Okoliya will be completed. By the end of 1956, the population of Dobrudzha will be supplied with abundant fresh drinking water.

By the end of 1954, the long distance high-tension power line, Ra grad-Dulovo-Tolbukhin, will be completed, and thus Dobrudzha will be supplied with power.

As many as ten water-supply pumping stations will be electrified this year, including the stations at Popina, Staro Selo, Kaynardzha Silistra, Cherkovna, Karadzhovo, Ezerovo, Vakilno, Batova, Kavarna, and Slatnitsa. To the already electrified farm workers' cooperatives, this year will be added the farm workers' cooperatives in the villages of Khristo Smirnenki, Maluk Porovets, Aydemir, Glazhevo, Chereshevo, Staro Selo, Dubravino, and Metodievo.

The following sketch shows the location of the projected shelter belts, pumping stations, aqueduct network, irrigation canals, etc.

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